

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus~~ An apparatus for receiving audio-visual programs comprising a circuit for communication with means of connection to a bi-directional communication network, wherein the apparatus comprises:
 - a first connector of a ~~bus for communication~~ bus with a master apparatus, the first connector comprising at least one conductor for the transmission of a supply voltage (VBUS) originating from the master apparatus,
 - at least one second connector of a said communication bus, each second connector allowing the connection of at least one peripheral device,
 - a splitter connected on the one hand to the first connector and the at least one second connectors through a switching circuit and on the other hand to a controller ~~managing communications with the first and second connectors~~,
 - means of detection of the presence of the supply voltage (VBUS) in the first connector, the means of detection being linked to the first connector and generating a switching control signal to the switching circuit, in response to the presence of the supply voltage so as to switch the apparatus from a first mode of operation to a second mode of operation ~~in response to the presence of the supply voltage~~ where the switching circuit establishes communications between the master apparatus connected to the first connector and said at least one peripheral device connected to said at least one second connector.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus~~ The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the first mode of operation is a so-called master mode of operation, in which the apparatus behaves as a master in relation to each peripheral device, and in that the second mode of operation is a so-called peripheral mode of operation in which the apparatus behaves as a peripheral device in relation to the master apparatus.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus~~ Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the first connector is a B type USB connector and in that each second connector is an A type USB connector.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus~~ Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the switching circuit comprises a quad switch, linked to the controller and to the second connector, so as to allow a first link between the second connector and the controller ~~for a first given switching state~~ when a signal representative of the supply voltage disappears.
5. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus~~ Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the switching circuit comprises a quad switch, linked to the controller and to a two-pathway splitter, the two-pathway splitter being linked to the first connector so as to allow in a second switching state a second link between on the one hand the first connector and the controller and between on the other hand the first link between the first connector and the second connector.
6. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus~~ Apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein a second link transmits a supply voltage detection signal so as to control the switching from one state to another state, to an input of the controller and to an input of a main microprocessor.
7. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus~~ Apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein, when the quad switch is switched into a first state, the apparatus operates in peripheral mode and when the quad switch is switched into a second state, the apparatus operates in master mode.
8. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus~~ Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the master apparatus is a personal computer and the apparatus comprises a digital decoder connected to the bi-directional communication network so as to allow the computer to communicate with ~~talk to the~~ said bi-directional communication network.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus~~ Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one peripheral device ~~or peripherals are~~ is linked to the second connector of the apparatus by way of an additional splitter.